



PLACER COUNTY
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CORONER-MARSHAL



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EDWARD N. BONNER
SHERIFF-CORONER-MARSHAL

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PRESS RELEASE

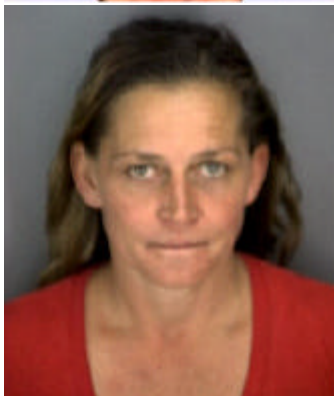
Date/Time of Release: June 4, 2003, 3:00 P.M.
Date/Time of Occurrence: May 11, 2003 to May 14, 2003
Nature of Call: Grand Theft and Burglary from Deceased Victim
Location of Call: 11550 Edgewood, Auburn
Case Number: SO 03-8000
Released by: Sgt. John Addoms (530) 889-7856

SHERIFF EDWARD N. BONNER RELEASES THE FOLLOWING:



On 6/2/03, Placer County Sheriff's investigators arrested an Auburn man and woman after they delayed reporting a man's death for 3 days so they could steal over \$10,000 of his property. Arrested for grand theft and burglary were Donald Neal Walls, 48, and Deborah Louise Souza, 42, of Auburn.

On 5/14/03, Placer County Sheriff's deputies responded to 11550 Edgewood Road, Auburn on the reported death of Ray Thomas Leatherman, 52. The manner of death is still under investigation, but it is not believed to be as the result of any criminal act.



Further investigation revealed that Leatherman's roommate, Walls, and Walls's friend, Souza, actually discovered the death on 5/11/03 and delayed making the report for 3 days so that they could steal and hide the decedent's property.

On 6/3/03, Sheriff's Detective Jim Hudson recovered the stolen property, which included an \$8,000 Persian rug and expensive crystal. The property was recovered after Walls was released from jail on his own recognizance after agreeing to help investigators recover the stolen property.

Walls and Souza were arraigned in Placer County Superior Court today. Walls remain out of custody and Souza remains in custody pending \$20,000 bail.

Copies of this press release are available on the Placer County Sheriff's Department website at <http://www.placer.ca.gov/sheriff>